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WIGAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1948



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Wigan Rural District Council

Chairman :

R. I. RANDALL, ESQ., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

E. T. HAMPSON, ESQ., J.P.

Councillors :

J. FAIRHURST, ESQ.

E. FOSTER, ESQ.

N. GASKELL, ESQ.

J. H. GILL, ESQ.

J. K. HODGE, ESQ.

W. HOPE, ESQ.

Clerk :

ROBERT GASKELL, A.L.A.A.

Staff Public Health Department :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

DOROTHY M. JAMES, M.D., D.P.H.

Engineer, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

J. HOLDING.

Water Inspector :

W. R. WRIGHT.

Bank Chambers,

Wallgate,

Wigan, 1949.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Wigan
Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report for the year 1948.

As in the previous year, the Report has been drawn up on the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health Circular.

The chief event of the year was the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, on the 5th July. The Lancashire County Council is the local Health Authority. For administrative purposes the County has been divided into Divisional Health Areas, each under a Divisional Health Committee. These Committees came into operation on the 5th July, 1948. Certain duties which hitherto had been the responsibility of the District Council, namely the provision of ambulance services, domiciliary nursing and matters relating to the control and notification of Infectious Diseases passed to the local Health Authority to be dealt with by the Divisional Health Committee of the area.

I wish to thank you for your very kindly interest taken in all matters affecting the Health and Sanitation of the District. I also take this opportunity of thanking Mr. J. Holding and other members of the Staff for their valuable assistance during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

DOROTHY M. JAMES,
M.D., D.P.H.

Wigan Rural District Council

GENERAL STATISTICS

Population, mid-1948 (Registrar-General's Estimate)	7,914
Acreage of Townships	11,696
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,341
Rateable Value	£42,751
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£166

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS.	M.	F.	Total.
Live Births (Legitimate)	80	67	147
(Illegitimate)	2	2	4
	—	—	—
TOTAL	82	69	151
Stillbirths (Legitimate)	1	1	2
(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	1	2

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	19.0
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales	17.9
Total Birth Rate (Live and Still)	19.3

Number of Still births was 2, compared with 4 in 1947. The Total Number of Live Births was 151, compared with 148 in 1947. The Live Birth Rate per 1,000 was 19.0 for 1948, compared with 19.4 in 1947.

Mean of 5 years 1943 - 1947 was	17.6
Year 1947 was	19.4
Year 1948 was	19.0
Increase in 1948 on 5 years' average was	1.4
Decrease in 1948 on 1947 was	0.4

DEATHS.

There were 82 deaths, 48 males and 34 females, during 1948, compared with 88, 46 males and 42 females, in 1947.

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	10.3
Death Rate for England and Wales	10.8
Mean of 5 years 1943-1947	11.9

Year 1947	11.5
Year 1948	10.3
Decrease in 1948 on 5 years' average.....	1.6
Decrease in 1948 on 1947	1.2

There were no Deaths from Puerperal Causes during the year.

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live Births	Nil
Mean of 5 years 1943 - 1947	3.25
Year 1947	—
Year 1948	—
Decrease in 1948 on 5 years. average.....	3.25
Decrease in 1948 on 1947	—

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	Nil.
Mean of 5 years 1943 - 1947 per 1,000 total (live and still births)	3.20
Year 1947	Nil.
Year 1948	Nil.
Decrease in 1948 on 5 years' average.....	3.20
Decrease in 1948 on 1947	Nil.

CANCER.—14 deaths, 7 Males and 7 Females, occurred in 1948, compared with 8 deaths, 3 Males and 5 Females in 1947.

Death Rate from Cancer per 1,000 estimated population	1.76
Mean of 5 years 1943 - 1947	1.46
Year 1947	1.04
Year 1948	1.76
Increase in 1948 on 5 years' average	0.30
Increase in 1948 on 1947	0.72

INFANTILE DEATHS.—6 Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age (4 Males, 2 Females) occurred in 1948, compared with 9 in 1947.

2 Deaths were due to prematurity, in each case the child dying under 24 hours. One child died from Spina Bifida when 4 days old, and one child died two days old from debility. One child 5 months old died from Bronchopneumonia and one child aged 2 months died of suffocation due to over-lying when sleeping with its parents.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—		
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births		39
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births		40
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births		Nil.
The Rate for England and Wales of all Infants per 1,000 live births was		34
Mean of 5 years 1943 - 1947 per 1,000 live births		45
Year 1947		60
Year 1948		39
Decrease in 1948 on 5 years' average.....		6
Decrease in 1948 on 1947		21

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES :—	Males.	Females.
Measles (all ages)	—	1
Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Diarrhoea (Under 2 years of age)	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	—	1
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—
Influenza	—	—
Cancer, all sites	7	7
Diabetes	—	1
Intra-Cranial vascular lesions	4	5
Heart Disease	22	9
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	1	1
Bronchitis	4	—
Pneumonia	—	1
Other respiratory diseases	2	2
Nephritis	—	1
Appendicitis	—	1
Other digestive diseases	—	2
Puerperal and post-abortional sepsis	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—
Premature Birth	2	—
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries and Infantile Diseases	2	—
Suicide.....	1	—
Road Traffic Accident	—	—
Other Violent Causes	—	1
All other causes	3	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
All causes	48	34
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The Number of Deaths in each Township was as follows :

Shevington	33
Wrightington	29
Parbold	7
Dalton.....	5
Haigh	5
Worthington	3
	<hr/>
	82
	<hr/>

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1948 :

Disease	Total Ages	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	Over 65-	Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	30		1		1	1	16	7	1	1	1	1		9		
Measles	141	8	8	17	17	25	58	8								
Whooping Cough	3		1				2									
Erysipelas	3											2	1			
Chicken Pox	2							1		1						
Diphtheria	1				1									1		
TOTALS	180	8	10	17	19	26	76	16	1	2	1	3	1	19		

Distribution over the several Parishes was as follows :—

	CASES.	TOTAL NO. OF CASES.
SHEVINGTON :		
Measles	75	
Scarlet Fever.....	14	
Erysipelas	1	
	<hr/>	90
WRIGHTINGTON :		
Measles	47	
Scarlet Fever.....	2	
Chicken Pox	1	
	<hr/>	50
HAIGH :		
Measles	8	
Scarlet Fever.....	5	
Whooping Cough	2	
	<hr/>	15

WORTHINGTON :

Measles	11	
Scarlet Fever.....	1	
Diphtheria	1	
Erysipelas	1	
	—	14

PARBOLD :

Scarlet Fever.....	7	
Erysipelas	1	
Chicken Pox	1	
	—	9

DALTON :

Scarlet Fever.....	1	
Whooping Cough	1	
	—	2
		—
		180
		==

DIPHThERIA.—One case only was notified, occurring in a child 3 years old, who had not been immunised.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.—The immunisation of children against diphtheria was continued during the year 1948. School children are treated at the Schools with the co-operation of the Head Teachers, while the pre-school children are treated either at the Schools or at the Child Welfare Centre. The injections are given by the Medical Officer of Health, assisted by the School Nurse. The immunising agent is Alum precipitated toxoid in doses of 0.2 c.c., followed by 0.5 c.c., a month later. At the age of 5 years a further dose of 0.5 c.c. is given to keep up the child's immunity.

After 5th July, Diphtheria Immunisation became the function of the Divisional Health Committee.

TUBERCULOSIS.—The notifications received during the year under the Public Health (T.B.) Regulations, 1930, were as follows :—

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1948.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
20	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65-over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5	2	4	—	—	1	—	—

Notification of the Disease is prompt and satisfactory. The County Council provides facilities for the treatment of Tuberculosis, and these services are fully used and appreciated. The Tuberculosis Dispensary for the Wigan Rural District is in Mesnes Park Terrace, Wigan, and patients may be referred there for examination by their own doctor or by the Assistant County Medical Officer.

Death Rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System was

The mean of 5 years, 1943 to 1947 was	0.28
The year 1947 was	0.13
The year 1948 was	0.12
Decrease on the 5 years' average was	0.16
Deacrease in 1947 was	0.01

SCHOOLS.

A School Clinic is provided by the County Council at Ashfield House, Standish, where children may attend for inspection and treatment of minor ailments. An Ophthalmic Session is held once a fortnight. The Clinic has been very well attended.

The Clinic is open for these purposes as follows:—

Monday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon	School Minor Ailment Clinic Medical Officer and Nurse attends.
Thursday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.	Minor Ailment Clinic (Nurse only).
Wednesday (fortnightly) 9-30 a.m.	Ophthalmic Clinic.

The Routine Medical Inspections of children in the Schools are carried out by the Medical Officer in her capacity as Assistant County Medical Officer of Health. Close co-operation exists between the Medical Officer of Health, the School Teachers and the School Attendance Officer, the latter supplies a weekly return of the children who are absent from school through sickness. The County Health Visitor follows up the cases for whom the Medical Officer recommends treatment at the time of the School inspections. The Nurse also visits the parents to give advice in cases in which the standard of cleanliness, etc., is unsatisfactory. Meals are now provided for the children in all the Schools.

SCHOOL CLOSURES.—It has not been necessary to close any School during the past year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.—An Infant Welfare Clinic is provided by the County Council at the Parish Rooms, Shevington. The Medical Officer attends one Tuesday a month, and the Health Visitor each Tuesday, from 1-30 to 4 p.m.

The Milk Officer also attends the Clinic on the above dates for the purpose of distributing National Dried Milk, Milk, Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juices, under the Government Scheme.

The County Council Health Visitor, who is also the School Nurse, undertakes the visiting of all newly-born infants in the district. The Ante-Natal Clinic at Ashfield House, Standish, serves the residents of the Wigan Rural District, and I am pleased to report that it has been very well attended. The Clinic is held every Monday, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Midwives attend each session.

In April, 1948, a Child Welfare Clinic was opened at the Parbold Women's Institute. The Clinic is held fortnightly and the Medical Officer of Health attends monthly.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.—A good supply of water is available in all Parishes, though there are still isolated houses which have their own private supplies.

The Parishes obtain supplies from the following sources :—

HAIGH	.....Blackrod U.D.C.	Upland
WORTHINGTON	.....Standish U.D.C.	Surface
SHEVINGTON	.....Standish U.D.C.	Water
PARBOLD	.....Own Supply	Deep Well Water
WRIGHTINGTON	.....Own Supply	Deep Well Water and Spring Water.
DALTON	.....Wrightington	do.

Table showing Consumption by Trade and Domestic Users.

Parish	Estimated “ Water ” Population	Average Daily Consumption (in gallons)			Average Consumption per day per head of “ Water ” Population.		
		Domestic	Trade	Supplied to other Districts	Domestic	Trade	Total
WRIGHTINGTON	2,550	51,819	20,254	Bispham3175	20.32	7.94	28.26
SHEVINGTON	3,100	53,255	11,065	....	17.18	3.57	20.75
PARBOLD	950	19,975	3,142	....	21.03	3.20	24.23
HAIGH	770	12,268	25,701	To Aspull 24,783	15.93	34.68	50.61
DALTON	430	4,868	6,619	....	11.32	15.39	26.71
TOTAL	7,800	142,185	66,781	....	18.23	8.56	26.79

Average Daily Total, 208,966
Domestic and Trade

The following table gives analyses of water supplies :—

Analyses of Water Supplies at 31st December, 1947.			
Parish.	Number of Houses		Total
	On Public Supply	On Private Supplies, Wells etc.	
Dalton	106	30	136
Haigh	225	1	226
Parbold	279	15	294
Shevington	895	—	895
Worthington	42	10	52
Wrightington	654	78	732
Totals ...	2,201	134	2,235

CONVERSIONS.—During the year 6 privy closets were converted to fresh W.C.s and 6 to pails. Movable ashbins were provided to 12 houses to replace ashpits.

The Council do not contribute towards the cost of conversions, and all the foregoing have been done in response to informal notices.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Scavenging of the district is carried out by direct labour, and the Council's own Motor Wagon.

HOUSING.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.—Building Development continued on a small scale during the year. Drainage is discharged into Septic Tanks, and the effluent into the nearest watercourse, or in some instances into the Council's Sewer.

NEW BUILDINGS.—During 1948, 67 new dwelling-houses were erected in the Rural District, 11 of these being by private enterprise.

MILK SAMPLING.—Samples are taken quarterly by the Sanitary Inspector of all milk in the district supplied to School Children.

No. of Dairy Farms in the District	86
Approximate number of Cows	450
No. of Cowkeepers (including Dairy Farms)	140
Number on Register	140
Number of Inspections during the year	70
Dairymen other than Cowkeepers	6
Number on Register	6

MEAT INSPECTIONS.—There are two registered slaughter-houses with shops attached. Periodic inspections are made and any unsound meat rejected.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors) :—

PREMISES (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	No. on Register (3)	No. of Inspections (4)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	12	18
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	6	10
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority *(excluding out-workers' premises)	3	5	4
TOTAL		23	32

* Electrical Stations (Section 103 (1)), Institutions. (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :—

Two cases of ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) were found and remedied.

One case of insufficient sanitary conveniences (S.7) was found and remedied.

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

The number of out-workers in the August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) was 3 Basket-makers.

DOROTHY M. JAMES,
Medical Officer of Health.